Accordingly no new matter has been added by way of the above amendments, and the entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/3/01

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Version with markings to show changes made

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Use according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the envelope density of the particles is from 0.8 to 1.5 g/cm^3.

4. (Amended) Use according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the pharmacologically active agent is a gene construct.

6. (Amended) Use according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the hydrogel is agarose or dextran.

15. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 10 to 14] claim 10, wherein the hydrogel particles in step (b) are contacted with the aqueous composition while in a dry state.

16. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 10 to 14] claim 10, wherein the hydrogel particles in step (b) are contacted with the aqueous composition while in a wet, pre-hydrated state.

17. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 10 to 16] claim 10, wherein the hydrogel particles are selected from the group consisting of agarose, dextran, polyethylene glycol and polybutyleneterephthalate particles.

18. (Amended) he method of [any one of claims 10 to 17] claim 10, wherein the active agent is present in the powdered pharmaceutical composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to 85 wt% of the composition.

19. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 10 to 18] claim 10, wherein the powdered pharmaceutical composition is formed using a freeze-drying step.

20. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims 10 to 18] claim 10, wherein the powdered pharmaceutical composition is formed using a spray-drying step.

23. (Amended) The composition of claim 21 [or 22], wherein the hydrogel is agarose.

24. (Amended) The composition of [any one of claims 21 to 23] claim 21, wherein the active agent is a peptide.

25. (Amended) The composition of [any one of claims 21 to 24] claim 21 in combination with written labeling instructions for administration of the particles by transdermal or transmucosal, high-velocity, powder injection.

26. (Amended) A unit dosage form of the composition of [any one of claims 21 to 24] claim 21.

27. (Amended) An article of manufacture for the transdermal or transmucosal delivery of a pharmacologically-active agent to a subject, which

article comprises a pharmaceutical composition of [any one of claims 21 to 24] claim 21 in a container containing a unit dose of active agent.

29. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 27 [or 28], wherein the active agent is a peptide or protein.

30. (Amended) The article of manufacture of [any one of claims 27 to 29] claim 27 in combination with written labeling instructions for administration o f the particles by transdermal or transmucosal, high-velocity, powder injection.

31. (Amended) A method for delivering a drug to a subject in need thereof, which method comprises preparing a pharmaceutical composition of [any one of claims 21 to 24] claim 24, accelerating said particles to a high velocity, and delivering said accelerated particles into a target skin or mucosal site.

33. (Amended) The [process] method of claim 31 [or 32], wherein the active agent is a peptide.